Application No.: 10/615,036
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.111
Reply to Office Action dated May 18, 2007
August 20, 2007

<u>REMARKS</u>

By this amendment, the specification and the abstract of the disclosure have been amended, and claims 1-3 and 5-8 have been amended. Currently, claims 1-8 are pending in the application.

The specification has been editorially amended to correct the minor spelling and grammatical errors.

The abstract of the disclosure was objected to because the abstract has exceeded 150 words in length. By this amendment, the abstract has been amended to be within the range of 50 to 150 words. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that this objection be withdrawn.

Claims 5-8 were rejected under 35 USC 101 because the claimed invention was directed to non-statutory subject matter. By this amendment, claims 5-8 have been amended to recite "A computer-readable medium encoded with a computer program" which is statutory subject matter. Therefore, applicant respectfully submits that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Ono et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,295,136). This rejection is respectfully traversed in view of the amendments to the claims and the following remarks.

The present invention relates to a commercial image processing device for carrying out printing processes for images in plurality of print sizes in a plurality of orders for a plurality of customers, and a computer readable medium including a computer program for the image processing device (see page 1, lines 6-9 of the specification).

The print size and quantity are stored in an image data memory 11 in correspondence with each image data file (see page 12, lines 16-18 of the specification).

Subsequently, an image correction for color, sharpness, etc. is carried out for each of the image data files stored in the image data memory 11 by an image correcting section 12 shown in FIG. 2 (see page 13, lines 1-4 of the specification).

An image data supply controller 13 which is supplied with the signal from a print button detector 18 outputs a command to the image data memory 11 so that the image data memory 11 supplies a printer 30 with only the image data file in correspondence with the same print size as stored in a print size memory 10, of the image data files stored in the image data memory 11. From the image data memory 11 having received such a command, the image data files in correspondence with the set print size are supplied to the printer 30, while being scaled so

as to be used for printing in the corresponding print size (see page 14, lines 3-13 of the specification).

As shown in FIG. 2, two pieces of information about the print size, one inputted by the operator and the other detected by the paper detector 17, are stored in the print size memory 10 (see page 11, lines 15-18 of the specification).

According to the present invention, since image data files stored in the image data memory are supplied to the printer so that an image data file in correspondence with a print size can be prevented from being mixed with an image data file in correspondence with another print size, after all the image data files to be used for printing are collectively stored in the image data memory by one operation, image data files needing the correction of the stored image data files can be collectively processed by one operation. Accordingly, the work regarding the reading of data files and the image correction can be greatly reduced (see page 4, line 17 - page 5, line 2 of the specification).

Conventionally, when a device carries out a printing process for images received from a plurality of customers, the storage of image data files to an image data memory is needed as many times as the number of print sizes when printing in plural print sizes.

Also, the ordering style for photograph prints has been diversified into various styles such as orders placed with a recording medium like a CD-ROM, or transmitted on the Internet. Therefore, it is very troublesome work to repeatedly store image data files in plural orders to an image data memory.

However, in the present invention, all the image data files for printing can be stored in an image data memory in a single procedure. Thus, no troublesome work as described above is needed.

By this amendment, independent claim 1 has been amended to recite "an image data memory for storing a plurality of image data files, which are included in a plurality of orders regarding prints of a plurality of data files taken from a plurality of customers, in correspondence with at least any one of a plurality of print sizes".

These features are not shown or suggested by Ono, et al.

Ono et al. relate to a technique of specifying various pieces of information used for printing in a predetermined printer and controlling the printer based on the specified information of an individual user.

Ono et al. do not include any description of carrying out a printing process ordered by customers. That is to say, it is

well imagined that the equipment disclosed in Ono et al. is to satisfy an individual need for printing; where the present invention is used to satisfy the needs of many different customers.

Also, in the equipment disclosed in Ono et al., a three-dimensional image of the printer is shown in a data display section F6 in the Paper tab CD4 on the Properties dialog box DB1. In the three-dimensional image, the feed path of paper for printing is shown by the arrow to inform the operator of the printing face of paper. The image is offered for any setting combinations of the method of paper feeding, the size of paper, the printing orientation, and the printable area. The image data are stored in advance in the ROM 31. Then, the image data corresponding to the combination set by the operator are stored in the display image memory 33.

The Examiner assumed that ROM 31 (described as ROM 32 in the office action and applicant believes that the Examiner meant ROM 31) and the display image memory 33 in Ono et al. correspond to an image data memory in claim 1 of the present application.

Surely, the image data stored in ROM 31 and the display image memory 33 in Ono et al. are stored so as to correspond to the size of paper. However, the image data are shown in the

Properties dialog box DB1, and are not used for carrying out a printing procedure. That is, unlike the image data files in claim 1 of the present application, neither the correction process by an image corrector nor supply to the printer by the image data supply controller is carried out for the image data in Ono et al. Hence, the invention in claim 1 of the present application is patentably different from the one disclosed in Ono et al.

In addition, the Examiner indicated that ROM 31 (stated as ROM 32 in the office action) in Ono et al. corresponded to an image data memory in claim 2 of the present application and the display image memory 33 in Ono et al. corresponded to a print size memory in claim 2 of the application. However, as stated above, the image data stored in ROM 31 in Ono et al. are not used for carrying out a printing process.

Therefore, applicant respectfully submits that Ono et al. do not disclose "an image data memory for storing a plurality of image data files, which are included in a plurality of orders regarding prints of a plurality of data files taken from a plurality of customers, in correspondence with at least any one of a plurality of print sizes".

For these reasons, it is believed that Ono et al. do not

teach or suggest the present claimed features of the present invention.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that this application is now in condition for allowance and an action to this effect is respectfully requested.

If there are any questions or concerns regarding the foregoing remarks, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: August 20, 2007

Randolph A. Smith
Reg. No. 32,548

SMITH PATENT OFFICE
1901 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Suite 901
Washington, DC 20006-3433
Telephone: 202/530-5900
Facsimile: 202/530-5902
Usami082007